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SECURITY INFORMATION

11 July 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, PY

SUBJECT: Comments on Specific Questions to be Incorporated  
in the Report to National Security Council by the  
Psychological Strategy Board.

1. Information received in 1950 and 1951 through covert channels indicated that VOA broadcasts were audible in the USSR. The areas from which these reports originated covered the Baltic countries and the Ukrainian SSR. Recent intelligence, however, indicates that the severe jamming instituted by the Soviets has considerably reduced the audibility of the VOA broadcasts. This is further substantiated by the information obtained from returning German PW's, Soviet refugees and defectors, who indicate that considerable segments of the USSR population continue to listen to VOA broadcasts despite the jamming and the risk involved.

Inasmuch as the only intelligence obtained through covert channels on the VOA broadcasts has come primarily from the Baltic countries and the Ukrainian SSR, it would be extremely difficult to determine at this time whether these broadcasts are proving to be effective in achieving our objectives. Information obtained through the interrogation of Soviet defectors, former German PW's and recently arrived refugees generally indicates that the VOA broadcasts are not sufficiently forceful and that a considerable portion of the programs is devoted to irrelevant matters which have no direct effect on the present struggle between the East and the West. There has also been considerable criticism emanating from the ethnic minority emigre groups, particularly the Ukrainians, who claim that the VOA broadcasts are not sufficiently representative of the desires and aspirations of the peoples inside the USSR. The Ukrainian emigre leaders insist that the VOA Ukrainian broadcasts should be made more national in character and should take cognizance of the Ukrainian struggle for liberation.

In general, there is sufficient evidence to indicate that, despite the apparent imperfections which may be inherent in some of the VOA programs, these broadcasts play an important psychological role in reminding the peoples of the USSR that there is an alternate way of life and, at the same time, providing them with a hope of ultimate liberation from the tyrannical oppression of the Soviet Regime. The effectiveness of these broadcasts, however, should not be measured in terms of immediate reactions or attainment of short-range

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objectives. Their value lies more in the field of preparation for a long-range psychological conditioning which serves to reinforce all other efforts directed to win the support of the peoples of the USSR to our cause.

There is no definitive evidence obtained through covert channels which would indicate that the Soviets have begun to put into effect measures designed to seal off the Soviet radio audience from any penetration by western radio programs. Obviously, jamming has been instigated for this specific purpose. In addition, there are some unconfirmed reports which indicate that the recent models of Soviet manufactured radios are being designed to prevent tuning in to the broadcasts originating from outside the USSR.

2. Only limited progress can be reported at this time in the penetration of the USSR frontiers by means other than radio. This division has had limited success in infiltrating agent personnel into certain strategic areas of the USSR. Such agent personnel, however, has been infiltrated primarily for procurement of intelligence and establishment of W/T support points inside the USSR. Because of the rigid controls which impede the successful movement of agent personnel inside the USSR and lack of the necessary support, either from any resistance elements which might be in existence or even the population itself, no psychological warfare activities can be undertaken in the USSR under these conditions. Therefore, no attempt has been made to penetrate the USSR frontiers for psychological warfare purposes by any other medium except radio.

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Chief, SR Division

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